growers/nurserymen for Flue Cured Virginia tobacco, as per tobacco Board Rules).

(e) Does not arise.

Growth rate of manufacturing sector

†2441. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJMOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an assessment regarding annual growth rate of development in the manufacturing sector of the country during 2005-06 and 2006-07, from April to February has been made;

(b) if so, the annual growth rate of development in the above mentioned period, separately; and

(c) the extent by which this actual rate is less or more than the fixed target of the annual growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The growth rate of the manufacturing sector, in terms of index of Industrial Production (IIP), was 9.1% in2005-06. As per the latest data available, growth rate of the manufacturing sector was 11.9% during 2006-07 (April-January).

(c) No annual growth target is fixed for the manufacturing sector.

Increase in cement price

†2442. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that cement producing companies of the country have increased consumer sale price of cement from March, 2007 onwards;

(b) if so, to what extent this price has been increased; and

(c) the percentage of such increase in consumer sale price of cement by the cement producing companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) Consequent upon changes in the excise duty announced in the Budget 2007, cement manufacturers have raised cement prices by about Rs. 10 to 12 per bag. This increase is about 5% of the prevailing consumer sale price.

Industrial growth centres

2443. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial growth centres in the country functioning at present particularly in Sikkim, location-wise/State-wise;

(b) the present status of setting up of industrial growth centres in Sikkim; and

(c) the details of amount allocated for setting up of industrial growth centres in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) A Statement indicating location wise and state wise details of all the 71 Growth Centres sanctioned under the Growth Centre Scheme along with funds released for these Centres is given below. Central Grant of Rs. 6.00 crores has been released so far for the Salghari-Samlik Marchak Growth Centre in Sikkim for which the State Government has acquired land and is carrying out the infrastructure development works.